

through snowdrifts, crossing in fogs, getting fastened in the anchor-ice, and at times helping to break the ice.' She also states there is absolutely no poverty in Fort Frances, nor yet is there any very great wealth. But when a nurse is called to a patient, be it in a hotel or in his own home, hers is no easy task, for since the grown-up daughter, neighbor, or maid is absent, the entire work devolves upon the nurse.

"Let us then think less of the growing bank account, and more of the nobler and higher aims of our profession, remembering that

" 'There are lonely hearts to cherish,
While the days are going by;
There are weary souls who perish,
While the days are going by;
If a smile we can renew,
As our journey we pursue,
Oh! the good we all may do,
While the days are going by.

" 'All the loving links that bind us,
While the days are going by;
One by one we leave behind us,
While the days are going by;
But the seeds of good we sow,
Both in shade and shine will grow,
And will keep our hearts aglow,
While the days are going by.' "

THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE NURSE IN PRIVATE DUTY

By MISS ANNIE RHODES

New York City

"The increase of the work in the hospital has extended the curriculum of the training-school, and the supervision thus made necessary has created many positions for the graduate nurse. This, however, while it may lessen the ranks of the private-duty nurse, benefits her materially, and it is the private nurse who, in the main, represents her profession to the world at large. Her opportunities for influencing the public are many, and the reputation of her school in particular, and her profession generally, is formed from the impression she herself creates. This important fact is not always realized sufficiently. The coming of the trained nurse into a family for the first time is anticipated with feelings of probable relief and possible trouble, for we are thought to be angels of mercy and hope or perfect terrors, as may be. The technical responsibility of the case, apparently, is the physician's. A nurse means one who is to carry out his orders carefully and properly.

When anxiety for the patient is somewhat allayed, the personality of the nurse interests the family, and then it is that the woman in her must survive a test. If she prove adaptable and accommodates herself to circumstances,—and we all know that a household is not in the usual running order during illness,—she will be blessed not only for being a good nurse, but for being a woman who, discerning the necessities of the situation, conforms to conditions readily and without undue comment. How many nurses answering calls appreciate that the 'case' is not the only consideration? While the drain upon her personality means constant depression and subsequent weariness, the fact that the nurse may be a friend indeed is not the least of her opportunities. When I hear that a nurse returns from the theatre to her patient at eleven-thirty P.M., of one who gives up the case about an hour before time to go on night duty, I wonder if the obligation to her patient, the ethical side, be fully understood. Instances like these—and they are true—do not make for favorable impression with the public. When, on the other hand, I am told that a nurse, being called when off duty, was actually reading a novel, I reply that she is a human being—not a machine to eat, sleep, and work alone.

"There is no more 'occupying' vocation than ours, sixteen or eighteen hours on duty, subject to possible call the rest of the twenty-four, but it seems to me there is one opportunity of which the private-duty nurse might avail herself, though it may mean extra effort. In keeping pace with the advance of her profession she may in many ways educate laymen to an appreciation of progress in nursing. It may require some management to attend alumnae, county, and State meetings, but by being in touch with the nursing world one helps to make its history. Is it nothing to people that nursing now has a legal status, that only graduates from schools qualifying can register under the Regents, expelling the improperly and half-trained women from the protection of the name of our profession? Help to make the registered nurse *the* nurse.

"Recently in reply to my question, 'What are you doing for the profession?' a private nurse said, 'By staying five years with my patient, I am proving that my school trained me well, and that I am a good nurse,' and while I tried to impress upon her that her influence was too limited, I agree that one who maintains her individuality and upholds the honor of her school is doing something towards making her profession the honorable calling it should be."

PRESIDENT.—This concludes the papers upon this subject and brings us to the next topic, that of "Army Nursing," by Miss Wilson, which will be presented by Mrs. Kinney, Superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps.